

799. v. 17

THE
NEVV PLOT.
OF THE
PAPIST:
BY WHICH

They Design'd to have laid the *GUILT* of their
HELLISH CONSPIRACIES

AGAINST

HIS MAJESTY

AND
GOVERNMENT:
UPON THE

Dissenting Protestants.

DUBLIN,

Reprinted, Ann. Dom. M DC LXXIX.

A

BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE

NEVV PLOT.



Ertainly had not *Catiline* liv'd before the Coming of CHRIST, he would have been taken for a Jesuit; so like was he to them in his Conditions, his Tenets, and his Practice. His Conditions were Bloody and Cruel, his Plots aganst the Magistracy and Government of the whole Nation; and his Doctrine, *That there was no way to be safe for them that begin high acts of villany, but by Attempting greater.* How near the Catilines of

this Age, whose Plots against his Majestie and His Government have been so lately Discovered, followed the Footsteps of Father Cethegus, and Father Curius, and the rest of that Bloody Gang, every day more and more discovers. Here has been Plot upon Plot, and greater Ills attempted to conceal the shame and Ignominy of former Impieties, Treason so foul and horrid, that Treason it self could not Rest till it had reveal'd it; while Labouring against the Stream of Providence, the Contrivers fall into those Snares themselves, which they were so cunningly Covering to Entrap others.

The First notice of this last Contrivance was given by Colonel Mansell; So that His Majestie was pleased upon the Twenty seventh of October last; to have a full hearing of the Business in Council: Where the Colonel made his Complaint against one Willoughby alias Rangerfield, alias Thomas, alias Day, who had been about Six Weeks ago, a Prisoner in Newgate under Conviction for several Notorious Crimes, and was then discharged by the Sollicitation and Expence of one Mrs. Cellier a zealous Papist and Midwife to the Lady Fowis, and several other Ladies of the Romish Perswasion.

The Main of the design, as it appeared, wasthis: That certain persons intending a new Plot, thereby to throw the Old One upon the Protestants began to put their contrivance in Execution, by the Assistance of this most special instrument, Willoughby, who to this effect beginning with Colonel Mansell, lying in Ax-Yard in Westminster, took a Lodge

ing in the same House, where having lain but one Night, the very next Day he goes to the Commissioners of the Custom House, and informs them, That at such a House in Ax Yard there lay concealed several parcels of French Lace, and other prohibited Goods; desiring their Warrant withal, and Authority to Search for and Seize the same: Which the Commissioners readily granted, and sent two of their Officers along with him for farther security and Assistance.

These Persons coming to the said House, declared that they came to search for above a thousand pounds worth of prohibited Goods that lay concealed therein. Their Errand very much surprized the Mistress of the House, in regard (that to the best of her knowledge) she had never lodged any that were either Merchants or Traders in Foreign or other commodities whatsoever. Notwithstanding which, the New Lodger and the Officers proceeded to make a diligent search in all places, and coming into the Colonels Chamber, by Willoughbys particular directions very strictly examined every Corner, but more especially the bed and bedsted, which was removed and carefully searched by the help of a Candle, which the Mistress of the house brought up. After the Officers had made a long search, and could find nothing, they applied themselves to put up the Colonels Cloths and Goods which had been tumbled and misplaced, intending to depart. But in the Interim, Willoughby who had continued all the while behind the bed, cryed out, What? were we all blind? come look what this is. Whereupon the Officers returning to see what they could not imagin they had seen there before, found a broad large and thick Packquet pinned to the head Cloath of the bed, which they pulled down & found sealed; but presently brok open & perceived it to be a Pacquet of Letters: One of which Willoughby suddenly catching up, in a great surprise cryed out, Treason, Treasons these are all traiterous Letters; Thereupon the Officers carried the Letters to the commissioners, and made a full report of all that had happened, which seemed a strange kind of an intregue to them. The Colonel who was absent all this while, at length comes h me, and understanding what had passed, found means to retrive the said pacquets and immediatly carried it to his Majestie, with an account of what had betallen him, assuring His Majestie of his own Innocence, and produced such prooofs thereof, that he occasioned Willoughby to be committed to Newgate, and an order to be given to the Attorney General for the Drawing up of an Indictment of High Treason against Willoughby.

Upon November 1. 1679 Colonel Mansell further proved by good witnessess, that the forementioned Willoughby had stood twice in the pillory, once at Salisbury; and that in Berkshire he had been whipt at the carts-tail:

That he had been Convicted at the Old Bailey in London, for Defacing the Kings Arms upon the milled shillings and stamping the Cross Scepters upon them; after which he Gilt them, and passed them away for Guinies. Some of the Letters which were in the Pacquet, pretended to be found in the Colonels Chamber, were written in Carracters, all of different Hands, and Contained Treasonable Matters; with the names of a great many worthy Gentlemen, whose untainted Loyalty was thereby to have been rendered obnoxious. This Willoughby appeared at court very splendid in Habit, with a servant in a Livery attending him: And it is said, he was by a great person brought to his Majesty about a month since, and recommended as a person much concerned in a Presbyterian Plot against his Majesty, and Government, of which he would give his Majesty a continual account: And indeed his carriage and confidence was such as might deserve some credit at first, till he appeared so Black, by the discovery of the whole cheat; that the Council declared, That they lookt on this matter as a Design of the papists to put a stop to the prosecution of the plot, and that they were of opinion that his majesties person was stil in danger.

Upon Saturday, November 1. aforesaid, the council sat late upon the further Examination of this Willoughby, and the midwife mrs. cellier, who was by Willoughby charged for holding a correspondence to Assassinate the King and the Lord Shaftsbury, naming also several other instruments engaged; among the rest, the Lady Powis. He also further insisted, That the said mrs. Cellier had upbraided him with cowardice, for not stabbing the Lord Shaftsbury, which he confessed he had undertaken and resolved to have done; but had not power to Execute, th u h his hand was twice on his Dagger: and that thereupon she took the Dagger from him, saying, *she wou'd do it her self;* in order whereunto she made a Visit to his Lordship, upon pretence of business; but was by providence prevented, many other detestable Crimes she was charged with, which were attended with such circumstances of Guilt, that the council ordered her from the gatehouse to Newgate.

One Mr. Rigault, a Virginia Merchant, inhabiting in the City, but a Frenchman born, was also accused for being in confederacy with her, and Examin'd, and afterwards committed to Newgate, The Earl of Castlemain (being under Bail on a former accusation) was likewise accus'd, examind, and Committed to the Tower.

On Sunday, at Four of the clock the Council being again Assembled, Dangefield, Mr. Cevier, and Mr. John Gadbury the Astrologer were

were all Three brought and Exam'd: Mr. *Gadbury* was charg'd as a Confederate with the former; & that he had cast the Nativities of His Majesty, and his Royal Highness, and had from thence drawn Troublesome Conclusions, with divers other Matters of a High Nature for which he was sent to the *Gate-House*.

These Plotters had contrived a Scheme of Government wherein they had placed the Prince of H's Majesties most Faithful Nobility at the Helm of Government, by the old Name of *Conservators of the Liberties of England*: And so in other Employments and Qualifications such other Worthy persons as were most opposite to their Interest, intending thereby their utter Extirpation, and the Ruin of the Government and Protestant Religion.

The Papers containing the Model of their Plot was found by Sir *William Waller* in Mr. *Cellier's* House in the bottom of a Meal-Tub under Meal, where no doubt they thought them safe enough from being seized; but the diligence of Sir *William* (Providence directing) found them out, to their no small Amazement and Confusion.

Within a day or two after, Sir *William Waller* seized in a House near the Arch in *Lincoln's-Inn Fields* leading into *Duke Street*, several Habits, Vestments, Crucifixes, Reliques, and several other Popish Trinkets, all ver y rich, and of considerable value; as also divers Trunks and Boxes stuff'd ful of Books and Papers, which, as it is said, belonged to Father *Harcourt* lately executed, and contain matters of great Importance to the farther discovery of the Plot, and confirmation of the King's Evidence.

They were discovered by means of a *Bricklayer*, who was mending the Tiles of the Hous, and perceiving them to be lodged in that obscure place, said nothing till he had finished his work; but then informed Sir *William* thereof, who coming with the *Bricklayer* and some other Assistants, searched the House, but could find no such place; i so much that he began to suspect some fraud in the *Bricklayer*, which put the *Bricklayer* in such a rage, that he got upon the House and undid it. The Tiles were no sooner laid open, but they diicovered what they came for, and being got the wrong way into the Room, they soon found the right way out again.

From that House they loaded a full Cart-load of the concealed goods beforementioned, part of which consisted of some hundreds of Books, very well bound in large Octavo, called *the difference between Sprinua's and*

and Temporal, being the Translation of a Spanish Jesit, by Sir *William Molineux*, Dedicated to the present Queens Majesty of England, and Printed in the year 1672. with many Popish Catechisms and School-Books, to corrupt and poison the Youth of the Nation.

By the Time since these Books were Printed, the vast quantities which have been by Sir *William Waller* and other gentlemen, already Seized and burnt, by the quantities (which may be certaine are still concealed, and by the vast Numbers which we may easily conceive) are already scattered and dispersed into private Hands and Families; we may readily calculate to what a Lofty Stature Popery would have grown in a few years more, by such careful Waterings of the Tender English Plants as these: if not thus, in every thing, by a Miraculous Providence prevented.

Books are no less Criminal than men, in regard they intend the same Destruction of the Soule, as the other to the Body: And therefore it is as necessary to bring Books to condign punishment, as any other sort of malefactors whatsoever. These howsoever had the happiness to accompany their Lord and Master *Antichrist*, the rise and source of all Europe's Calamities, condemned by the people to those Flames to which he had condemned the whole Kingdom. To which purpose, on the Fifth of November last, in the Palace-Yard at Westminster, a great Bonfire was made, which proved the Funeral Pile of all these venomous Seducements of Popery, and several Copes, and other Vestments and Habits, Beads and other Trinkets, belonging, or at least in the custody of Father *Harcourt*, who had the impudence to avouch his innocency and allegiance, with all this Trumpetry and Testimonies of Rebellion, at the same time committed to his keeping.

Among these baubles was found one piece of great antiquity, and by computation of time almost 800 years old. It was a Cross of Gold, weighing about Four ounces, upon which on the one side was engraven these words, *Defendite Gentes hinc partem Crucis Omnipotentis*; in English, Defend O ye Nations this part of the Omnipotent Cross: On the other side were engraven the Arms of *Alfred*, King of England, who dyed in the year 901. Besides which Engraveing, it was empail'd with divers precious Stones of a considerable value. Within this Cross was another Cross of Ebony, to which the Gold one seemed to serve only for a Case; and as if it had been a little Nest of Serpentine Idiocy, the Ebony Cross was inlaid with another Cross of a quite different Wood, which it is supposed their superstition believed to be a piece of the Cross upon which our Saviour suffered. There

There was also a Gold Ring with a Motto, wrap'd up in white Paper, upon which was written *The Ring of the Bishop of Glasgow*, with several other curiosities, which are as yet preserved. The crois was presented by Sir William to His Majestie, who said, he would keep it for its Antiquity.

Soon after was seized one Mr. Curtis, who is reported to have been formerly a clerk to Sir William Bucknal, one of the Farmers of Excises after that a servant to Mr. Henry Nevil; and lastly to a worthy member of Parliament, from whose service he betook himself to a debauched course of Life; and falling into the acquaintance of Dangerfield, and the rest of that Gang, appears to have been designed for one of the eight witnesses, that were to have sworn in confirmation of this New Monk-plot. He was first examined by Mr. Warcup, and sent a Prisoner to the Gate-house, and afterwards was sent so before the Council, where doubtless he confessed something of his ignorance, not yet fit to be made publick; whereby he obtained the favour of Bail, which was granted him accordingly.

As for the Lady P. it is said she has confessed all she has been charged with, save only that she was not privy to any Design to murder His most Sacred Majesty. And indeed, that Lady was so brisk at her first Examination as to deny that ever she knew, or had seen Mr. Dangerfield; to which he reply'd, that she had sufficient Testimony in her own breast to convince her that she knew him; which words he was afterwards forc'd to explain, no way to the advantage of the Lady.

One Mr. Bedford, being fallen into the Gang, was design'd to have been a Witness with Mr. Dangerfield against Sir Thomas Player, for Treason, which Dangerfield had ready drawn up (as if spoken by Sir Thomas) on the nature of an affidavit for him to set his Hand to. All Dangerfield put him to before, went down well, 'till this writing appear'd, at which he boggl'd. And this being put to him in the very Diction of Colonel Mansell's discovery of the cheat, Bedford fairly came in and confess'd all he was privy to, which being back'd with several Evidences more against Dangerfield, was the first occasion of his Commitment: who though at first, as all Malefactors do, he thought to have bindeid the Eye of Justice by a brazen-faced denial; yet such has been his discovery since, and so well attended with circumstances, and credible evidence, besides something considerable of matter of Fact also, that His Majesty and Council have thought fit to grant him his pardon, as they have done to one Mr. Sergeant, a Secular Priest, lately come from Holland with Mr. Sidney His Majesties

Em:

Embossadour to that State, who has given His Majesty an account of the proceedings of the Papists abroad, in order to the accomplishing their designs against His Person and Government at home, which God of his infinite mercy preserve.

Thus we may observe a Counterplot carried on by the same partie, that is to say, the Jesuits and their accomplices; designed to cover their own dishonourable Guilt, by accusing the Innocent, and endeavouring to incense His Majesty against his own Subjects, in hopes thereby to disable and enervate the strength of his Kingdom; manag'd with a malice suitable to the Crimson cogitations of Rome, but with such a precipitation, as hath utterly defiled the Fame of Jesuitical Craft, and shewed them rather actuated by the violent Springs and Roots of Necessity and Revenge, then by the regular rules of Knavery: or rather enforced by providence to farther confusion, and hastily driven forward with such a choise of Instruments, that must for ever Obliterate the Scandals of those infamous Libels which have endeavoured to invalidate the King's Evidence by the Clamorous reproches of poverty and perjury, who were themselves so impiously contriving to blow up the Loyalty, integrity and innocence of so many persons of indelable worth and Honour, and with them the Reputation of so considerable a part of the People with a continued series of the perjuries and false Testimonies of debauchery & impiety: as if St. Omer's Colledge were at such a low Ebb, that it must be beholding to our College of Newgate, for dexterity of Execution in the Carrers of Popish Contrivances.

F I N. I S.